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FROM

Ambassador BUCHAREST

115

DESP. NO.

December 31, 1960

DATE

TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF

Legdes 114 December 28, 1960 (Weeks 52)

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1-11		Cit-15 UOI-10 UOB-2 INT-7 OSD-5 Army-4

SUBJECT:

Changes in administrative divisions of Rumania USA-2 Navy-4 Com-10  
LAB-6 Ag-8

RSB

After approval by the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party at its plenum meetings December 19-20, 1960, a proposal to change the administrative divisions of the territory of Rumania, particularly in the Hungarian Autonomous Region, was put before the Grand National Assembly on December 22, 1960. In introducing the draft bill, Nicolae CEAUSESCU, a member of the Politburo, stated that after a year's study and as a result of many requests and suggestions made by the working people of the different communes, raions and regions, the modifications had been made in order to construct more viable and better consolidated economic and cultural units, as well as to insure better communications between raional and regional centers. These proposals were adopted by the GNA on December 24, along with certain necessary amendments to the constitution which were affected thereby. Six copies of Ceausescu's speech, which describes the administrative changes for each region, and of a map as printed in "Scinteia", are enclosed. The constitutional amendments are reported in Legdes 116.

The country's territory remains divided into sixteen regions in addition to the cities of Bucharest and Constanta. Both now have the same administrative rights as a region. The number of raions has been reduced from 189 to 146. Eight regions regained their historic names (Constanta is now Dobrudja, Craiova - Oltenia, Oradea - Crisana, Pitesti - Arges, Stalin - Brasov, Timisoara - Banat, Magyar Autonomous - Mures Autonomous Magyar, and Baia Mare - Maramures). Most significant was the return of "Orasul Stalin" to "Brasov", the city's ancient Saxon name.

Raional redivision within the various regions was said to be for the purpose of tightening administrative controls, which will result, according to calculations advanced by the regime, in a savings of some 400 million lei. The value of 100 million is estimated in reallocation of building space now used by local administrative organs and 100 million in the administration of "husbandry". An additional 200 million is expected to be saved in building expenses, previously budgeted for in the Six Year Plan and no longer necessary. The provincial bureaucracy

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will probably be reduced by as much as 20%. The new law was also described as contributing to closer contact between the state and the workers and to an increase in the latter's role in the management of state and public affairs, thus strengthening the "unbreakable alliance" between the industrial workers and the peasantry. Actually, the new law seeks to improve party and state leadership over all economic and cultural activity.

Most significant adjustments were in respect to the Hungarian Autonomous Region. Two raions, St. George and Tirgu Secuiesc, which are over 80% populated by Hungarian ethnics, were detached and incorporated into the Brasov Region (formerly Stalin Region), ostensibly because they were too far removed from Tirgu Mures, the administrative center. To balance these losses, three raions further west - Ludus, Sarvas, and Timnoveni - were combined and taken into the Autonomous Region as one raion. In these raions there is an absolute Rumanian majority. The population of the Autonomous Region as a whole was increased by 45,000, the agricultural area by some 30,000 hectares, but Hungarian predominance has declined.

The amendments to the constitution and the new delimitation of this Autonomous Region modify the Vienna Award boundary between Hungary and Rumania. The overall Hungarian population relative to Rumanian has been decreased by pinching off the southeastern enclave of Szeklers, who now apparently lose the special rights (real or not) accorded them under Articles 20 and 21 of the constitution. The elimination of Article 19, which established and defined the area, and the amendment to Article 18, which is in effect a new article, now makes it possible to again gerrymander the Autonomous Region but without further reference to the constitution. It may also be of some importance that the name of the Autonomous Region has been changed by prefacing the word "Mures". The words "Autonomous" and "Hungarian" could eventually be eliminated in ordinary usage or by dictat, to be known simply as the Mures Region. Although Articles 20, 21, 57 and 58 of the constitution give special privilege to the Hungarian Autonomous Region, it would now appear an easier matter quietly to amend or delete them, since Article 19 no longer exists. Only relations with the Hungarian government would prevent the elimination of special treatment for the Magyar minority, and the presence in Rumania "on holiday" of Ferenc MURNICH, Hungarian Prime Minister, during the GMA sessions may therefore have had some significance. (In a discussion of the new administrative laws with Nicolae GORDA, a Director in the Foreign Ministry, and himself a Transylvanian, he contended that the changes in the Autonomous Region were purely to improve administration and that the Hungarian minority would continue to retain special rights. He failed, however, to explain the disappearance of Article 19, except to say it no longer applied.)

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As regards the return of their historical names to eight regions and one city, this is being interpreted locally as a sop to regional feelings, which have deep roots in customs and folklore, as well as the cover for eliminating the word "Stalin" from both a region and an important industrial city. Ironically, this regime effort to placate national and historic cultures originated with Stalin ("Marxism and the National Question"), but whether any "national-cultural autonomy" can in Rumania be extended to Hungarians is doubtful.

*Frederick T. Merrill*

Frederick T. Merrill  
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosures:

Six copies of Ceausescu's speech;  
Six copies of a map as printed in  
"Scinteia".

Copies pouched to: Amlegation Budapest, Embassy Moscow.

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FROM : American Embassy VIENNA

123

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 2, 1961

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*Austria Desk**L-2*

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SUBJECT: Austro-Hungarian Border Agreement

The Austrian and Hungarian Governments have reached accord on an agreement concerning the physical demarkation and maintenance of their common border. According to a Foreign Ministry source the impetus behind the agreement, which will be signed later this year, was the fact that a good number of the border markers are inaccurate or in disrepair, thereby increasing the danger of border incidents.

Negotiations are still continuing for an agreement regarding the investigation of border incidents. The Hungarians want ad hoc fact-finding commissions set up whenever a border violation occurs. There is apparently a reasonable chance that some agreement will be reached along these lines.

No prospect is in store for a general border arrangement for which the Hungarians have been pressing and which would amount to having the Austrians assist the Hungarians in enforcing the latter's draconic restrictions against both Hungarians and foreigners. Similarly, there is little hope for an Austrian proposal that the Hungarians reduce the danger of border incidents by emulating the Czechs and moving their barbed wire and mine field installations a hundred yards or so back from the actual border.

For the Ambassador:

*John Devine*  
John Devine  
Counselor of Embassy

P-GBHeiman/bjd

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